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Recommendations of the working group to the special session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Proposal for the United Nations strategic plan for forests for the period 2017-2030

Submission by the Co-Chairs of the working group of the United Nations Forum on Forests

By its resolution 2015/33, the Economic and Social Council established a working group and an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group of the United Nations Forum on Forests. In accordance with paragraph 48 of the resolution, the expert group conducted two meetings in 2016 to develop and submit proposals to the working group on two matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the resolution: (a) the replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the United Nations forest instrument with an appropriate reference to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; and (b) the strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, consistent with section XI of the resolution.

The present document transmits proposals for the United Nations strategic plan for forests for the period 2017-2030, put forward by the Co-Chairs of the working group, Gholamhossein Dehghani (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands). They prepared the proposals on the basis of the outcome of the second meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group, held in Bangkok from 24 to 28 October 2016, and informal consultations held at Headquarters on 12 December 2016.

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United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030 is focused on maintaining and enhancing some of the world's richest and most productive land-based ecosystems.[1] The strategic plan provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and contribute to the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument,[2] the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international commitments.

2. The strategic plan will serve as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and partners to foster enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards a shared vision and mission for forests (see appendix III).

A. Importance of forests to people and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. Forests cover over 30 per cent of the Earth's land area,[3] or nearly 4 billion hectares, and are essential to human well-being and sustainable development. An estimated 1.6 billion people — 25 per cent of the global population — depend on forests for subsistence, livelihoods, employment and income generation.

4. Forests also provide food, fuel, fodder and shelter; sequester carbon; protect soil and water resources; combat land degradation and desertification; reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust storms and sandstorms; and are home to an estimated 80 per cent of terrestrial plants and animals.

5. When sustainably managed, all types of forests — from natural to planted forests[4] — are productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems providing essential goods and services to people worldwide. In many regions, forests also have important cultural and spiritual value. It is stated in paragraph 4 of the United Nations forest instrument that: "Sustainable forest management, as an evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations."

6. The sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 15, relating to life on land, highlights the importance of sustainably managing forests (see appendix V).

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[1] On the basis of recommendations by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session, in 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2015/33 to strengthen the functioning of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015, including by calling for the preparation of a strategic plan for the period 2017-2030.

[2] The United Nations forest instrument was adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the General Assembly in 2007. It sets out four shared global objectives on forests and 44 national and international policies, measures and actions to implement sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[3] According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, four countries account for nearly 50 per cent of the world's forests: the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada and the United States of America.

[4] Natural and planted forests are defined in the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

7. In recognition of the extraordinary importance of forests to people, the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/200, proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests, which is celebrated around the world each year to raise awareness and action on forest issues.

8. Despite the crucial contribution of forests to human well-being, deforestation and forest degradation continue in many regions, often as an unplanned response to demands for food, fuel and fibres. Drivers of deforestation often lie outside the forest sector and are rooted in wider social and economic issues and policies that favour land uses that are easier to finance and produce higher and more rapid financial returns, such as those relating to agriculture, energy, mining and transportation.

9. Forests are also at risk from illegal or unsustainable logging, fire, pollution, dust storms, sandstorms and windstorms, disease, pests, invasive alien species, fragmentation and climate change, all of which threaten forests' health and their ability to function as productive and resilient ecosystems.

10. At the same time, demand for forest goods and services is growing because of rapid population growth and increasing per capita income and consumption in many countries. With the world's population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, meeting future demand for forest products and services depends on urgent action to secure, sustainably manage and expand forests.

11. At the global level, there is fragmentation in forest governance and a lack of coherence among the many international organizations, institutions and conventions addressing forest issues. At the national level, cross-sectoral coordination on forests is often weak, and forest authorities may not be full partners in land use planning and development decisions.

B. Shared United Nations vision and mission

12. The United Nations strategic plan for forests is a bold new initiative focused on maintaining and enhancing the world's richest and most productive land-based ecosystems. The strategic plan will provide a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests.

Shared United Nations vision

13. The shared United Nations vision is of a world in which all types of forests are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and provide economic, social and environmental benefits to present and future generations.

Shared United Nations mission

14. The shared United Nations mission is to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forest goods and services to sustainable development, including by strengthening cooperation, coordination, coherence and political commitment at all levels.

15. The strategic plan will also guide and focus the work of the unique international arrangement on forests, which includes the United Nations Forum on

Forests and its 197 member States. The Forum is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council and is the United Nations body mandated to address forest-related issues in an integrated and holistic manner. It will oversee implementation of the strategic plan and the United Nations forest instrument, as well as the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (see appendix IV).

16. The work of the Forum is supported by its secretariat, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, a voluntary partnership chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supported by the Forum secretariat in its role as secretariat of the Partnership, and comprising the executive heads of 14 United Nations system and other international organizations with significant forest-related programmes (see appendix IV).

17. The international arrangement on forests actively engages as partners a variety of international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations and processes with forest-related programmes, and recognizes the crucial role of stakeholders at all levels in achieving sustainable forest management.

Objectives of the international arrangement on forests

18. The objectives of the international arrangement on forests are to:

(a) Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument;

(b) Enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;

(d) Foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;

(e) Support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations forest instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

C. Opportunities for enhanced and value-added action on sustainable forest management

19. The launch of the strategic plan comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors at all levels, within and outside the United Nations system, to safeguard the world's forests and their multiple values and benefits, now and in the future.

20. The strategic plan aims to build on the momentum provided by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change, the launch of the Green Climate Fund and other international commitments.

21. The United Nations system will add significant value to these initiatives by advancing a set of global goals and targets in support of sustainable forest management and the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

II. Global forest goals, targets and thematic areas for action

22. At the heart of the United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030 are [6] global forest goals and [28] associated global forest targets. These goals and targets are global and voluntary in nature. They incorporate the global objectives on forests, support the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and build on and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

23. The vision, principles and commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide the framework for the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan. The goals and targets are interconnected and integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable forest management and sustainable development. Quantitative targets are based on existing information and baseline data.

24. The global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan are intended to stimulate and provide a framework for voluntary actions and contributions by countries and international, regional, subregional and non-governmental partners in key thematic areas, as well as for enhanced coherence and collaboration on forests within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. To advance achievement of these goals, a non-exhaustive list of these thematic areas for action is included under each goal to reflect key areas in which voluntary actions and enhanced cooperation are needed.

25. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the eradication of poverty in all its forms, will make crucial contributions to progress across all the goals, targets and thematic areas for action of the strategic plan.

26. The 44 national and international actions set out in the United Nations forest instrument are the initial priority actions. The Forum will identify additional actions as needed through its quadrennial programmes of work and resolutions and decisions.

27. As shown in annex I, the global forest goals, targets and thematic areas for action together constitute a strategy to advance the shared United Nations vision and mission on forests, support the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and enhance the contribution of forests to achieving other international commitments.

Global forest goal 1
Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and enhance the resilience of all types of forests to climate change

Targets

By 2030:

1.1 The Earth's forest cover is increased by [5] per cent

1.2 The area of forest under sustainable forest management is increased by [X] per cent

1.3 The world's forest carbon stocks are increased by [X] per cent

1.4 [X] million hectares of degraded forests are restored worldwide

1.5 The resilience and adaptive capacity of forests and forest-dependent indigenous peoples and local communities to climate-related events and natural disasters is significantly strengthened worldwide

The above-mentioned targets are related to and support the implementation of targets 6.6,[5] 13.1,[6] 15.1[7] and 15.2[8] of the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Target 5.[9]

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

(a) Sustainable forest management

(b) Reduction in deforestation

(c) Reduction in forest degradation

(d) Maintenance of forest health

(e) Reforestation and afforestation

(f) Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation

(g) Climate change mitigation and adaptation

(h) Combating land degradation

(i) Halting biodiversity loss

[5] By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

[6] Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

[7] By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

[8] By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

[9] By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

(j) Minimizing the impact of invasive alien species

(k) Combating forest fires

Global forest goal 2
Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Targets

By 2030:

2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated (currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day)

2.2 Access by small forest enterprises, including women's enterprises, to financial services and markets is significantly increased, in particular in developing countries

2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to the food security of local populations is significantly increased

2.4 The contribution of forest ecosystem services to local and national economies is significantly increased

2.5 The benefits arising from the use of forest genetic resources are fair and equitably shared, as internationally agreed

The above-mentioned targets are related to and support the implementation of targets 1.1,[10] 8.3,[11] 9.3[12] and 15.6[13] of the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Target 14.[14]

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

(a) Contribution of forests to poverty eradication and livelihoods

(b) Community forest management

(c) Integration of small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises into value chains and markets

(d) Value-added forest product production and processing

(e) Working conditions and wages of forest workers

[10] By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.

[11] Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

[12] Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

[13] Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

[14] By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

(f) Competitiveness of forest products and diversification of production

(g) Valuation of forest goods and services

(h) Payments for ecosystem services

(i) Benefit-sharing and traditional forest-related knowledge

(j) Forest-related education, training and extension

(k) Forests and trees in the urban context

(l) Building markets and infrastructure to promote production and consumption of sustainably-managed forest products

(m) Forest genetic resources

Global forest goal 3
Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Targets

By 2030:

3.1 [X] per cent of the world's forests are designated as fully protected areas, including [X] per cent of coastal forests

3.2 [X] per cent of the world's production forests are sustainably managed, including forests used for energy and fuelwood production

3.3 Market access is significantly enhanced for sustainably produced forest products with a fair and remunerative price

3.4 Increase by [X] per cent forests under sustainably managed and internationally recognized certification schemes

The above-mentioned targets are related to and support the implementation of target 14.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals[15] and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.[16]

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

(a) Management of protected forest areas and networks

(b) Conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including in production forests

(c) Sustainable management of all types of forests, including timber-producing forests

[15] By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

[16] By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

(d) Wood for energy and fuelwood, including sustainable use of woody biomass

(e) Market access and enhanced competitiveness of sustainably managed forest products

(f) Market-based tools (for example, voluntary certification)

(g) Public policy tools (for example, public procurement)

(h) Verification of forest products

Global forest goal 4
Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management, mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific, technical and technological cooperation and partnerships

Targets

By 2030:

4.1 Forest-related public funding (multilateral, bilateral and national) is increased by [X] per cent globally, including an increase in forest-related official development assistance by [X] per cent

4.2 Private foreign and domestic investment in the forest sector is increased by [X] per cent globally

4.3 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.4 [X] number of countries are assisted to access funding for sustainable forest management and to develop and implement forest financing strategies

4.5 North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced

The above-mentioned targets are related to and support the implementation of targets 15.b[17] and 17.6[18] of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

(a) Means of implementation to achieve sustainable forest management

[17] Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

[18] Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

(b) Funding support for implementation of the United Nations forest instrument

(c) International public funding and national budgets

(d) Foreign and domestic private sector investment in sustainable forest management and forest-based enterprises

(e) Building capacity to access and mobilize funds for sustainable forest management

(f) Public-private partnerships

(g) Environmentally sound and innovative forest-based technology and technology transfer

(h) North-South, South-South and triangular technical and scientific cooperation

(i) Efficiency of forest-based industries

(j) Forest science-policy interface

(k) Forest inventories and availability of reliable forest data and statistics

Global forest goal 5 (cross-cutting strategy)
Promote sustainable governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Targets

By 2030:

5.1 [X] per cent of countries have integrated forests into national development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies

5.2 The role of national forest authorities in land use planning and development is significantly strengthened

5.3 All countries have phased out subsidies harmful to forests and put in place incentives for sustainable forest management

5.4 Illegal deforestation and illegal logging is eradicated worldwide

5.5 Forest land tenure security is significantly improved in all countries

By 2024:

5.6 The number of countries that provide reports on the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument is increased by [X] per cent

The above-mentioned targets are related to and support the implementation of targets 1.4,[19] 5.a,[20] 15.9,[21] 16.3,[22] and 16.5[23] of the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2[24] and 3.[25]

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

(a) Cross-sectoral coordination at all levels

(b) Integration of forest values into national planning and accounting

(c) Enabling environments for investment in sustainable forest management

(d) Forest law enforcement

(e) Forest land tenure security

(f) Gender equality in the forest sector, including empowerment of women and girls

(g) Stakeholder engagement at all levels

(h) Public involvement in forest decision-making

(i) Civil society partnerships

Global forest goal 6 (cross-cutting strategy)
Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Targets

By 2024:

6.1 National forest-related policies and programs are coherent and complementary across ministries, departments and national focal points of forest-related organizations and processes

[19] Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

[20] Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

[21] By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

[22] Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

[23] Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

[24] By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

[25] By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

6.2 Forest-related programmes within the United Nations system are coherent and complementary and integrate the United Nations strategic plan for forests in their workplans and programmes

6.3 Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

(a) Reduction in fragmentation in global forest governance

(b) Coherence, collaboration and cooperation among forest-related programmes and initiatives

(c) Joint initiatives and joint programming of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

(d) Collaboration between Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as major groups and other non-governmental stakeholders

(e) Harmonized programmes of work

(f) Harmonized data collection and reporting cycles and formats

III. Implementation framework

28. The United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030 provides a coherent reference framework for ambitious and transformational actions by all actors at all levels to achieve its global forest goals and targets. An overview of roles and responsibilities and means and resources is outlined below.

A. Roles and responsibilities

1. Member States

29. The individual and collective actions and commitments of Member States will be decisive for the successful implementation of the strategic plan.

30. Member States will, on a voluntary basis, determine the contributions they intend to make towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan, taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions.

31. Member States may include in their voluntary planned contributions, as appropriate, the forest-related contributions they intend to make to other international forest-related commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the global response to climate change pursuant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted thereunder. Member States may also develop action plans on the basis of their voluntary planned contributions.

32. Member States may, on a voluntary basis, inform the United Nations Forum on Forests of their voluntary planned contributions at regular intervals determined by the Forum. Transmission of information on the progress made by countries towards the achievement of their voluntary planned contributions could be synchronized with their voluntary reports on the United Nations forest instrument in order to avoid an additional reporting burden.

33. Member States, as members of the governing bodies of forest-related international, regional and subregional organizations, will promote the integration of the global forest goals and targets into the strategies and programmes of those organizations, consistent with their mandates and priorities.

2. United Nations Forum on Forests and its secretariat

34. As part of the United Nations system and the international arrangement on forests, the Forum will carry out its core functions on the basis of the strategic plan. The Forum's quadrennial programmes of work will reflect its contribution to the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan for each quadrennium.

35. The Forum is the responsible intergovernmental body for reviewing and following up on the implementation of the strategic plan.

36. The Forum secretariat will service and support the Forum in all matters related to the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work and will serve as the secretariat for the strategic plan.

3. Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations

37. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests will support the Forum and its member States in advancing the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan in the context of the Partnership's core functions, including through joint workplans aligned with the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work and by identifying collective actions by all or subsets of the Partnership's members, as well as associated resource needs.

38. Member States will support the Partnership's workplan as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence among member organizations of the Partnership, including the United Nations Forum on Forests and other United Nations system organizations represented in the Partnership.

39. Member organizations of the Partnership have a crucial role to play in advancing the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and are encouraged to integrate relevant global forest goals and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes.

4. United Nations system

40. The United Nations bodies and organizations not participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests also have an important role to play, as they address issues that are relevant to forests, such as gender equality and the empowerment of women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), labour standards (International Labour Organization), small and medium-sized enterprises (United Nations Industrial Development

Organization), scientific and technical cooperation (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and ecotourism (World Tourism Organization). These organizations and bodies are encouraged to use the strategic plan as a reference framework with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and their policies and programmes, particularly in the context of their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.

41. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination is encouraged to promote the use of the strategic plan as a reference framework for forest-related work within the United Nations system, including through the work of its High-level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group, to enhance the organizational and collective capacity of the United Nations system to effectively support the achievement of the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan.

5. Other intergovernmental partners and stakeholders

42. In addition to the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements that are represented in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, a number of other secretariats of and parties to multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially Waterfowl Habitat and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, undertake forest-related activities and can make important contributions to the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan (see appendix III). The secretariats of and parties to these agreements are encouraged to seek opportunities to align their activities with the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan, consistent with their mandates.

43. As members of the governing bodies of forest-related intergovernmental partners and stakeholders, Member States will promote the integration of the global forest goals, associated targets and thematic priorities for action of the strategic plan into the strategies and programmes of those organizations, consistent with their mandates.

6. Regional and subregional organizations and processes

44. United Nations regional bodies, notably the regional economic commissions and the FAO regional forestry commissions, and other regional and subregional organizations and processes provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in efforts to achieve the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan.

45. The Forum will work with regional and subregional organizations and processes to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan, including by encouraging them to develop interregional networks and other initiatives to foster information exchange and cooperation. This would enable coordination across regions and between member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including the United Nations Forum on Forests, on the implementation of the strategic plan, as well as promoting synergies and joint activities at the regional and subregional levels,

enhancing awareness-raising and the engagement of non-governmental stakeholders and building capacity to scale up best practices.

46. Regional and subregional organizations and processes, including those within the United Nations system, are encouraged to build and strengthen synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and their policies and programmes, particularly in the context of their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.

47. Member States are encouraged to consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to advance the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan.

7. Major groups and other non-governmental stakeholders

48. Achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan depends on the contributions of a wide range of non-governmental stakeholders, including forest owners, local communities, indigenous peoples, the private sector (small, medium and large forest-based enterprises), women, children and youth, and the scientific, academic and philanthropic communities.

49. The Forum will work with major groups and other non-governmental stakeholders to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the goals and targets of the strategic plan and their interactions with the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including through networks, advisory groups and other mechanisms to raise awareness, foster information exchange and dissemination and facilitate coordinated inputs at the international level.

50. Major groups and other stakeholders active in the forest arena, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, volunteer groups and others, are encouraged to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the Forum and other forest-related United Nations bodies.

B. Means and resources for implementation

51. Building on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the framework for international cooperation on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the strategic plan provides a reference framework for international cooperation and capacity-building on forests, recognizing that there is no single solution to address all of the needs in terms of financing for actions to achieve the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan. A combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral.

52. Achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on adequate, predictable and significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as on capacity-building and education, technical, technological and scientific cooperation and public-private partnerships.

It also depends on effective cross-sectoral coordination and good governance at all levels.

53. Member States should make full use of the grant and concessional resources available to them through United Nations system programmes, funds and specialized agencies; international financial institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund; multilateral, regional and subregional development banks; bilateral development assistance agencies; and national funds, as well as funding opportunities through foundations and other philanthropic organizations that are emerging as major donors for international development, including natural resource management.

54. Member States will foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, through financial support, technology transfer, capacity-building and education, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels.

1. Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network

55. The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the United Nations Forum on Forests should contribute to the scaling up of sustainable forest management by enhancing access for countries to resources to implement the strategic plan and, in particular, to achieve its global forest goals and targets. To this end, the priorities for the Network will be:

(a) To promote and assist Member States in the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of national forest programmes or other appropriate national frameworks, and to facilitate and assist Member States in the design of programme and project concepts, including through capacity-building, for submission to GEF, the Green Climate Fund and, as appropriate, other financing mechanisms;

(b) To advise Member States on the enabling environments needed to attract sustainable public and private sector investment in sustainable forest management at all levels;

(c) To assist and advise regional and subregional organizations and processes to enhance their capacity-building programmes on forests; organize regional workshops; and develop project concepts to access financing from multilateral funding institutions, such as the Green Climate Fund, GEF and the Adaption Fund, for promoting sustainable forest management;

(d) To serve as a clearing house and database on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects, building on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests online sourcebook for forest financing.

56. Special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover countries, medium-forest-cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds.

57. The Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests[26] will be a main source of support for activities of the Network. Member States are encouraged to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund on a regular basis.

58. The Forum, during its even-year sessions, will monitor and assess the work and performance of the Network, including the availability and sufficiency of Trust Fund resources for its operation, and will make decisions as appropriate. The Forum secretariat, as the manager of the Network, will report to the Forum.

2. Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and other forest funding institutions

59. Member States should make full use of the existing international resources, including through:

(a) The GEF strategy for sustainable forest management and the GEF focal areas on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, which serve as funding mechanisms for the Rio Conventions;

(b) Inviting GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on forests during its next replenishment;

(c) The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and related investment activities under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Programme;

(d) Exploring new opportunities with the Green Climate Fund.

60. The private sector, philanthropic organizations and foundations also have an important role in scaling up resources for sustainable forest management.

61. Member States should also seek to make full use of the potential of innovative funding mechanisms, including payment for ecosystem services schemes and carbon pricing arrangements that might be developed in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

IV. Review framework

A. Review of the international arrangement on forests

62. In 2024, the Forum will conduct a midterm review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in achieving its objectives, and will conduct a final review in 2030. In the context of the midterm review, the Forum could consider a full range of options and financing options, including:

[26] The Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests was established in 2001 to finance activities in support of the Forum from voluntary extrabudgetary resources. These activities include the travel of representatives of eligible countries to the Forum's sessions and intersessional meetings, the preparation of studies and reports and the funding of capacity-building activities for Member States.

(a) A legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the strengthening of the current arrangement and the continuation of the current arrangement;

(b) The establishment of a voluntary global forest fund in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of the sustainable management of all types of forests. If consensus is reached, the Forum can consider the establishment of such a fund prior to 2024.

B. Progress in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary planned contributions

63. The Forum will assess progress in implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests in the context of its midterm and final reviews of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, in 2024 and 2030. As shown in annex II, the assessment will be based on a set of indicators, including relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicators, linked to the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan.

64. The assessment will take into account voluntary national reporting on the United Nations forest instrument, the strategic plan and voluntary planned contributions and the results of the most recent Global Forest Resources Assessment, as well as inputs from member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners within and outside of the United Nations system, including regional, subregional and non-governmental partners. The assessment will also include a review of the sufficiency of resources, identification of future resource needs and proposals on future funding sources.

65. To reduce the reporting burden, Member States are encouraged to report on the progress made in implementing the strategic plan, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary planned contributions in an integrated and consolidated manner. In this context, the Forum will establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting by Member States under the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020, taking into account the cycle of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments and the Sustainable Development Goals review cycle at the global level. The first voluntary national reports should be submitted to the Forum's session in 2018.

C. Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

66. Forest-related United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Forums on Forests as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, will contribute to the annual follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals at the global level by the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In this context, the Forum and its secretariat will highlight the contribution of forests to the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in depth at the annual sessions of the high-level political forum.

V. Communication and outreach strategy

67. Communication and outreach is an essential component of the United Nations strategic plan for forests, which is itself an important communication tool. Actors at all levels are encouraged to raise awareness, within and outside of the forest sector, of the vital contribution of all types of forests and trees to human well-being.

68. Key messages may include promoting and raising awareness of, inter alia:

(a) The importance of forests to people;

(b) The contribution of the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and priority actions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and international commitments;

(c) Forest trends, challenges and emerging issues;

(d) Forest financing needs, opportunities and strategies;

(e) Enabling environments and incentives for investment in sustainable forest management and forest-based enterprises;

(f) The role and contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes;

(g) The role and contributions of major groups and other non-governmental stakeholders;

(h) The work of and value added by the United Nations system, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, including the United Nations Forum on Forests, in the above-mentioned areas.

69. The United Nations system, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners are encouraged to enhance cooperation and synergies on forest-related communications and outreach to increase the impact of their messaging, and to consider joint events and products with national, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations.

70. The International Day of Forests on 21 March provides a powerful annual event and platform for individual and collective public outreach activities by all actors at all levels.

Annex I

(For information, to be completed following adoption of United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030)

Contribution of the global forest goals, targets and thematic areas and United Nations forest instrument actions to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other international commitments

International arrangement on forests objective(s)	*Global forest goal*	*Targets*	*Thematic areas for action*	*United Nations forest instrument actions*[a]	*Targets and actions support/contribute to*
1	1	By 2030: 1.1 The Earth's forest cover is increased by [5] per cent 1.2 The area of forest under sustainable forest management is increased by [X] per cent (also relevant to goal 3). 1.3 The world's forest carbon stocks are increased by [X] per cent 1.4 [X] million hectares of degraded forests are restored worldwide 1.5 The resilience and adaptive capacity of forests and forest-dependent indigenous peoples and local communities to climate-related events and natural disasters is significantly strengthened worldwide	(a) Sustainable forest management (b) Reduction in deforestation (c) Reduction in forest degradation (d) Maintenance of forest health (e) Reforestation and afforestation (f) Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation (g) Climate change mitigation and adaptation (h) Combating land degradation (i) Halting biodiversity loss (j) Minimizing the impact of invasive alien species (k) Combating forest fires	6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e)	Targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 14.5, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 11, 14 and 15, GEF-SFM 2 and 3[b] and nationally determined contributions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/Paris Agreement
1	2	By 2030: 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated (currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day) 2.2 Access by small forest enterprises, including women's enterprises, to	(a) Contribution of forests to poverty eradication and livelihoods (b) Community forest management (c) Integration of small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises into value chains and markets	6 (f), (j), (u), (v) and (y)	Targets 4.4, 8.3, 9.3, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 and GEF-SFM 2.4[b]

International arrangement on forests objective(s)	*Global forest goal*	*Targets*	*Thematic areas for action*	*United Nations forest instrument actions**	*Targets and actions supported/contributed to*
		financial services and markets is significantly increased, in particular in developing countries **2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to the food security of local populations is significantly increased** **2.4 The contribution of forest ecosystem services to national and local economies is significantly increased** **2.5 The benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are fair and equitably shared, as internationally agreed**	**(d) Value-added forest product production and processing** **(e) Working conditions and wages of forest workers** **(f) Competitiveness of forest products and diversification of production** **(g) Valuation of forest goods and services** **(h) Payments for ecosystem services** **(i) Benefit-sharing and traditional forest-related knowledge** **(j) Forest-related education, training and extension** **(k) Forests and trees in the urban context** **(l) Building markets and infrastructure to promote production and consumption of products from sustainably managed forests** **(m) Forest genetic resources**		
1	**3**	**By 2030:** **3.1 [X] per cent of the world's forests are designated as fully protected areas, including [X] per cent of coastal forests** **3.2 [X] per cent of the world's production forests are sustainably managed, including forests used for energy and fuelwood production**	**(a) Management of protected forest areas and networks** **(b) Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including in production forests** **(a) Sustainable management of all types of forests, including timber-producing forests**	**6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (d), (f) and (g)**	**Targets 7.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11 and 12**

International arrangement on forests objective(s)	*Global forest goal*	*Targets*	*Thematic areas for action*	*United Nations forest instrument actions*[a]	*Targets and actions support/contribute to*
		3.3 Market access is significantly enhanced for sustainably produced forest products with a fair and remunerative price 3.4 Increase by [X] per cent the area of forest under internationally recognized certification schemes	(b) Wood for energy and fuel, including sustainable use of woody biomass (c) Market access for and enhanced competitiveness of sustainably produced forest products (d) Market-based tools (for example, voluntary certification) (e) Public policy tools (for example, public procurement) (f) Verification of forest products		
1, 4 and 5	4	By 2030: 4.1 Forest-related public funding (multilateral, bilateral and national) is increased by [X] per cent globally, including increase in forest-related official development assistance by [X] per cent 4.2 Private foreign and domestic investment in the forest sector is increased by [X] per cent globally 4.3 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation	(a) Means of implementation to achieve sustainable forest management (b) Funding support for implementation of the United Nations forest instrument (c) International public funding and national budgets (d) Foreign and domestic private sector investment in sustainable forest management and forest-based enterprises (e) Building capacity to access and mobilize funds for sustainable forest management (f) Public-private partnerships (g) Environmentally sound and innovative forest-based technology and technology transfer	6 (h) and (i) and 7 (a), (b) and (c) 6 (b), (e), (m), (q) and (s) and 7 (a), (k), (o), (p), (q) and (n)	Targets 15.a, 15.b, 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals GEF-SFM 1.1[b] Targets 12.2, 12.5, 12.a, 17.6, 17.7, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals

International arrangement on forests objective(s)	*Global forest goal*	*Targets*	*Thematic areas for action*	*United Nations forest instrument actions*[a]	*Targets and actions support/contribute to*
		4.4 [X] number of countries have been assisted to access funding for sustainable forest management and to develop and implement forest financing strategies 4.5 North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced	(h) North-South, South-South and triangular technical and scientific cooperation (i) Efficiency of forest-based industries (j) Forest science-policy interface (k) Forest inventories and availability of reliable forest data and statistics		
1-5	5	By 2030: 5.1 [X] per cent of countries have integrated forests into national development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies 5.2 The role of national authorities in land use planning and development is significantly strengthened 5.3 All countries have phased out subsidies harmful to forests and put in place incentives for sustainable forest management 5.4 Illegal deforestation and illegal logging are eradicated worldwide 5.5 Forest land tenure security is significantly improved in all countries By 2024: 5.6 The number of countries that provide reports on the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument is increased by [X] per cent	(a) Cross-sectoral coordination at all levels (b) Integration of forest values into national planning and accounting (c) Enabling environments for investment in sustainable forest management (d) Forest law enforcement (e) Forest land tenure security (f) Gender equality in the forest sector, including empowerment of women and girls (g) Stakeholder engagement at all levels (h) Public involvement in forest decision-making (i) Civil society partnerships	6 (a), (c), (d), (h), (k), (l), (n), (t) and (w) and 7 (c), (h), (i) and (j)	Targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.c, 15.9, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3 and GEF-SFM[b] 1.1 and 4.6

International arrangement on forests objective(s)	*Global forest goal*	*Targets*	*Thematic areas for action*	*United Nations forest instrument actions*[a]	*Targets and actions support/contribute to*
3	6	By 2024: 6.1 National forest-related policies and programmes are coherent and complementary across ministries, departments and national focal points of forest-related organizations and processes 6.2 Forest-related programmes within the United Nations system are coherent and complementary and integrate the United Nations strategic plan for forests in their workplans and programmes 6.3 Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	(a) Reduction in fragmentation in global forest governance (b) Coherence, collaboration and cooperation among forest-related programmes and initiatives (c) Joint initiatives and joint programming of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (d) Collaboration between Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as major groups and other non-governmental stakeholders (e) Harmonized programmes of work (f) Harmonized data collection and reporting cycles and formats	7 (r) and (s)	

[a] The United Nations forest instrument actions do not directly address climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation, gender equality or urban forests and trees.

[b] Refers to the objectives/outcomes of the Global Environment Facility strategy for sustainable forest management.

Annex II

(For information, to be completed following adoption of United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030)

Global forest goals, targets and examples of indicators

Global forest goal	*Target (text of final targets to be inserted)*	*Examples of indicators (Sustainable Development Goal indicators as of March 2016)*
1	1.1 The Earth's forest cover is increased by [5] per cent	Forest area as a proportion of total land area (indicator 15.1.1)
		Annual average percentage change in forest area over most recent available five-year period (indicator 15.2.1)
	1.2 The area of forest under sustainable forest management is increased by [X] per cent (also relevant to goal 3)	Share of forest area under a forest management plan, of which forest area certified under an independent forest management certification scheme, most recent period (indicator 15.2.1)
	1.3 The world's forest carbon stocks are increased by [X] per cent	Annual average percentage change in carbon stocks in above-ground biomass over most recent available 5-year period (indicator 15.2.1)
	1.4 [X] million hectares of degraded forests are restored worldwide	
	1.5 The resilience and adaptive capacity of forests and forest-dependent indigenous peoples and local communities to climate-related events and natural disasters is significantly strengthened worldwide	
2	2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated (currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day)	Proportion of the population below the international poverty line, disaggregated by sex, age group, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural) (indicator 1.1.1)
		Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age group (indicator 1.2.1)
		Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national

Global forest goal	*Target (text of final targets to be inserted)*	*Examples of indicators (Sustainable Development Goal indicators as of March 2016)*
		definitions (indicator 1.2.2)
	2.2 Access by small forest enterprises, including women's enterprises, to financial services and markets is significantly increased, in particular in developing countries	
	2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to the food security of local populations is significantly increased	
	2.4 The contribution of forest ecosystem services to national and local economies is significantly increased	
	2.5 The benefits arising from the use of genetic resources are fair and equitably shared, as internationally agreed	
3	3.1 [X] per cent of the world's forests are designated as fully protected areas, including [X] per cent of coastal forests	Share of forest area whose primary designated function is biodiversity conservation, most recent period (indicator 15.2.1)
	3.2 [X] per cent of the world's production forests are sustainably managed, including forests used for energy and fuelwood production	
	3.3 Market access is significantly enhanced for sustainably produced forest products with a fair and remunerative price	
	3.4 Increase by [X] per cent the area of forest under internationally recognized certification schemes	
4	4.1 Forest-related public funding (multilateral, bilateral and national) is increased by [X] per cent globally, including an [X] increase in forest-related official development assistance by [X] per cent	Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (indicator 15.b.1.1)
	4.2 Private foreign and domestic investment in the forest sector is increased by [X] per cent globally	
	4.3 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and	

Global forest goal	Target (text of final targets to be inserted)	Examples of indicators (Sustainable Development Goal indicators as of March 2016)
	reforestation	
	4.4 [X] number of countries have been assisted to access funding for sustainable forest management and to develop and implement forest financing strategies	
	4.5 North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced	
5	**5.1 [X] per cent of countries have integrated forests into national development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies**	**Number of countries that report on integrating forests into national development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies in response to the United Nations forest instrument voluntary reporting questionnaire**
	5.2 The role of national authorities in land use planning and development is significantly strengthened	
	5.3 All countries have phased out subsidies harmful to forests and put in place incentives for sustainable forest management	
	5.4 Illegal deforestation and illegal logging are eradicated worldwide	
	5.5 Forest land tenure security is significantly improved in all countries	
	5.6 The number of countries that provide reports on implementation of the United Nations forest instrument is increased by [X] per cent	
6	6.1 National forest-related policies and programmes are coherent and complementary across ministries, departments and national focal points of forest-related organizations and processes	
	6.2 Forest-related programmes within the United Nations system are coherent and complementary and integrate the United Nations strategic plan for forests in their workplans and programmes	

Global forest goal	*Target (text of final targets to be inserted)*	*Examples of indicators (Sustainable Development Goal indicators as of March 2016)*
	6.3 Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	